

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following information

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2. Materials for the production of these crankshafts have already been made available to the Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen with the exception of seamless, cold-drawn precision steel pipes G 35.61, DIN 2391, with a thickness tolerance of plus or minus 10 percent (Bandstärke). The plant lists its requirements of these pipes as follows:

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FDI

14 tons of 50 by 2.5 mm	95 tons of 70 by 4 mm
17 tons of 60 by 3 mm	7 tons of 75 by 2.5 mm
6 tons of 70 by 2.5 mm	

It was impossible to procure these precision steel pipes from West Germany in 1951 because of the steel embargo, and the Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen was forced to use pipes of poorer quality which were made available from the DDR internal reserves. In addition, shafts from war-time production and used shafts were employed to enable the plant to meet its production quota. But the factory has been advised by its central administration, Ifa-VVB, Chemnitz, and by Ifa/Lowa, Berlin, that the DDR internal reserves can no longer provide the desired pipes. The plant directors further advise the Ministry for Smelting and Ore Mining that they informed the proper DDR authorities of the seriousness of the situation nearly two years ago without having received in the meantime any tangible results. They point out the difficulty of arousing enthusiasm among the factory workers for fulfillment of the current production plan in view of the lack of material and emphasize the fact that a breakdown in the delivery of crank-shafts can cause disturbances in the entire motor transport industry of the DDR as well as concomitant non-fulfillment of export agreements. The directors point out that after exhausting all supply possibilities, production of crank-shafts can continue for approximately four to six weeks with the materials on hand, after which all production must come to a standstill.

3. The Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen states that in examining methods whereby the shortage of steel pipes might be overcome, it has experimented with welded steel pipes. The factory recently received a few meters of welded pipe, DIN 2394, with dimensions of 50 by 1.5 mm, from the VEB Pipe and Rolling Mill, Chemnitz. This pipe was subjected to various chemical and physical tests and was found to meet the quality requirements established by the factory. The Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen thereupon inquired of the Chemnitz Rolling Mill as to the possibilities of producing seamless drawn pipe in the larger dimensions required in the manufacture of crankshafts. Answer was received to the effect that while the Chemnitz Pipe and Rolling Mill possessed the machinery required to produce the type of steel pipes desired, the manufacture of the larger pipes was not possible because the Biesa Rolling Mill is currently producing warm rolled band steel, necessary in pipe production, up to a maximum width of 198 mm. If the Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen is to use the welded pipes supplied by the Chemnitz mill, the dimensions of the pipes will have to be changed as follows:

50 by 1.5 mm	:	60 by 1.5 mm
50 by 2.5 mm	:	60 by 2.0 mm
60 by 3.0 mm	:	75 by 2.5 mm
70 by 4.0 mm	:	90 by 3.0 mm
80 by 6.0 mm	:	120 by 3.0 mm

This would necessitate having mass roll band steel in widths up to approximately 400 mm.

4. The Gelenkwellenwerk Thüringen urgently requests the Ministry for Smelting and Ore Mining to intercede in this question of supply since all previous efforts to procure the steel pipes through DI-Metall have been unsuccessful. The directors of the factory are of the opinion that there is little hope of procuring the pipes through normal import channels and believe that the shortage must be overcome by internal DDR production.